REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Applicants also wish to thank the Examiner for the notice that claims 29-31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include any of the limitations of intervening claims.

Claims 1, 4-11, 13, 15-17, 19, 22-23, 25-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,859,987 (Gillespie) in view of Surugucchi et al. and Venkat. This is a new ground of rejection. With respect to claims 1, 8, 10-11, 19 and 28, the office action admits that Gillespie fails to teach, among other things, a data bridge having a read only memory for storing at least initial values and mask values for each ASIC of a plurality of ASICs in a data bridge system. Gillespie also fails to, among other things, teach reading initial values and mask values from read only memory and forming from the initial values and mask values, configurable registers, and upon initialization of the computer system cause the computer system to allocate system resources to each of the plurality of ASICs. As to claim 28, the claim requires, among other things, register configuration logic that configures at least one register flop to be read or writable based on at least one mask value stored in the memory in a configurable register. This language is also not taught in Gillespie but is not mentioned in the rejection.

Applicants also respectfully note that Gillespie does not teach a data bridge with a ROM as alleged in the office action (see page 4). The EEPROM 31 of Gillespie in not in the bus bridge 7 and does not include initial values and mask values for a plurality of ASICs nor is a configurable register formed from mask values that upon initialization of the system causes the system to allocate system resources.

Also Surugucchi teaches a conventional PCI configuration scheme. This reference has been cited as teaching a bridge (210 or alternatively 210 and 212 taken together) including a mask register storing mask values for masking base address registers in accordance with the

attached peripherals. Base address registers are well known as noted in applicants "Background" section. The mask of this cited reference is not the same as that claimed and is not in a data bridge ROM as admitted in the office action but is used to set the contents of a BAR. Even for argument sake, if the mask info. of Surugucchi were put in the ROM of Gillespie, claim 1 would still not be taught as the claim requires that that ROM be in the data bridge and the EEPROM of Gillespie is not in a data bridge.

Moreover, claim 10 requires, for example, forming configurable registers from the initial values and mask values upon initialization of a computer system. (See for example, claim 10). No such configurable registers are taught or suggested in Surugucchi or any of the cited references because the cited references teach conventional configuration registers whose content may changed but are not configurable to be for example read only or write only based on mask values stored in ROM. Accordingly, the other claims are also in condition for allowance.

As to claim 28, Applicants also respectfully submit that this claim requires, among other things, a configurable register that includes register configuration logic that configures at least one register flop to be read and/or writable based on at least one mask value stored in the memory wherein the memory contains initial values and mask values for use in forming a register. Again, the office action does not cite to any reference for teaching such subject matter and Applicants respectfully submit that the claim is in condition for allowance.

None of the references, alone or in combination describe, among other things, the configuration of a register for use, for example, upon initialization of a system, that uses the mask values to define a register bit as for example read only, or read/write under control of ROM contents. As such, the registers are in effect general purpose and are defined after the mask values are loaded in by the system. No such structure or operation is described in the cited

references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

New claim 32 is also believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given above for claim 10.

The dependent claims add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter and as such, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-3, 12, 14, 18, 20-21 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gillespie in view of Surugucchi and Venkat as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Applicants' admitted prior art. Applicants respectfully reassert the relevant remarks made above with respect to the Surugucchi reference and as such, the combination of references do not teach the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

In addition, these claims add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/15/05

By: _____
Christopher J. Reckamp
Registration No. 34,414

Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz, P.C.
222 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Phone: (312) 609-7599
Fax: (312) 609-5005